



News Release

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Sexual misconduct charges and indecent liberties arrest lead state to suspend chemical dependency counselor

OLYMPIA — Charges of having sexual contact with a female client led the state Department of Health to immediately suspend the credential of a Kitsap County chemical dependency professional.

The credential of Ruben Romero (CDP0001478) has been suspended. He cannot practice or work as a chemical dependency professional in Washington pending the outcome of a hearing.

Romero owns and operates a chemical dependency treatment facility in Bremerton. Charging documents filed in the case say Romero made inappropriate comments and sexual advances toward three of his clients. The women had court orders to participate in the counseling. Last month Romero was charged with felony indecent liberties in Kitsap County.

Consumers who believe a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call the Department of Health at 360-236-4700 to report their complaint. A [complaint form is also online](#) (www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Complaint.htm). The form can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to the agency's Health Systems Quality Assurance division.

The Department of Health protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers. The agency establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to people in Washington.

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